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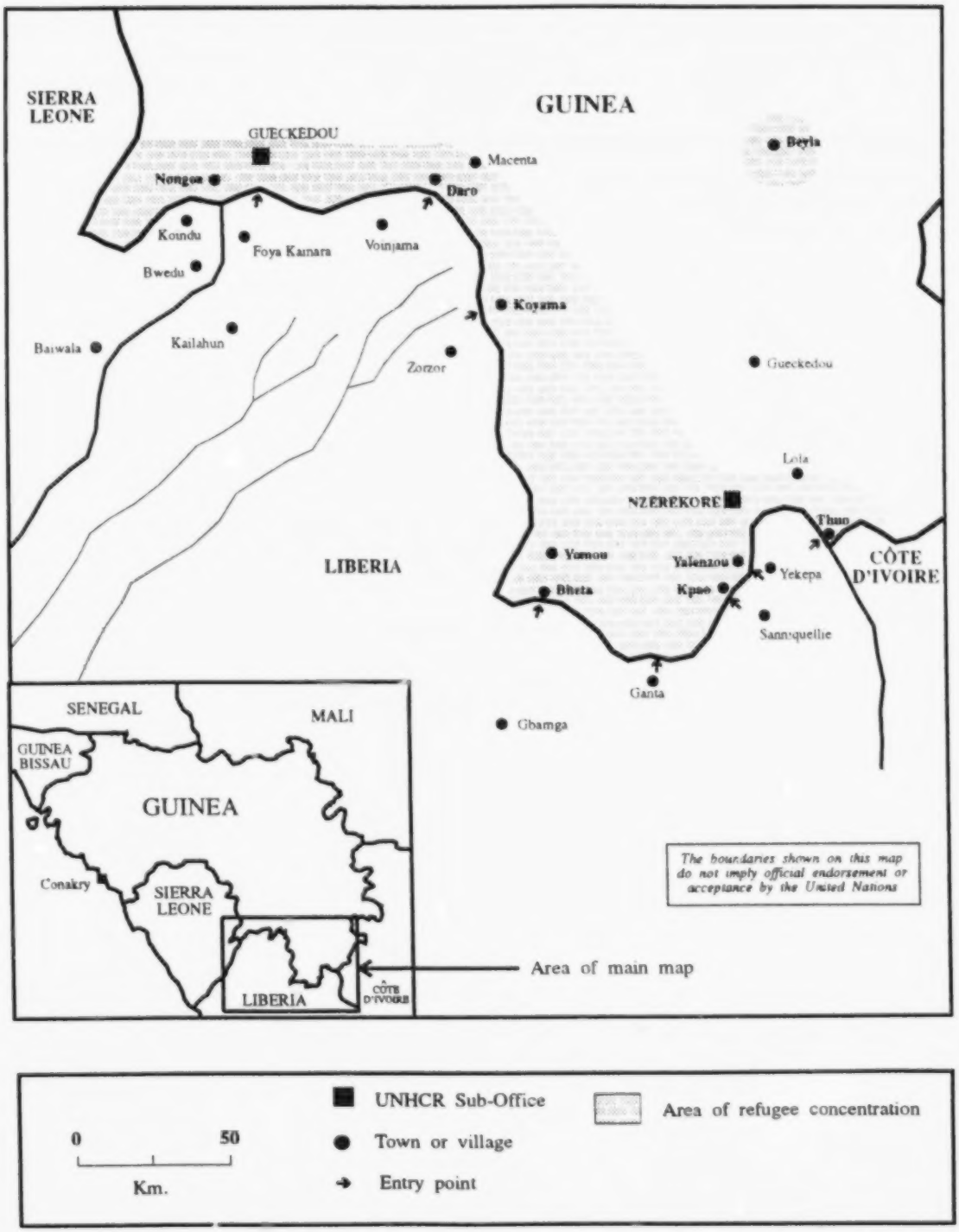
UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1993-1994 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1995

PART I. AFRICA

Section 10 - Guinea
(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.94-03278 (E)

GUINEA


SIERRA LEONE
GUINEA
GUECKEDOU
Macenta
Beyla
Nongoa
Daro
Koundu
Foya Kamara
Voinjama
Bwedu
Koyama
Bairwala
Kailahun
Zorzor
Gueckedou
Lola
NZEREKORE
Thuo
Yomou
Yalenzou
Yekepa
CÔTE D'IVOIRE
Bhota
Kpao
Sanniquellie
LIBERIA
Ganta
Gbamga
SENEGAL
MALI
GUINEA BISSAU
GUINEA
Conakry
SIERRA LEONE
LIBERIA
CÔTE D'IVOIRE
Area of main map
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
0
50
Km.
UNHCR Sub-Office
Town or village
Entry point
Area of refugee concentration

I.10 GUINEA

Country Overview

Characteristics of the refugee population

1. At 31 December 1993, the refugee population in Guinea stood at 577,157 persons, i.e. 72 per cent Liberians, 28 per cent Sierra Leoneans and 1 from Niger. The first inflows of Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea date back to the beginning of the conflict in Liberia towards the end of 1989. Meanwhile, the inflows have continued without a break. Most of the Liberians are from the Nano, Gio, Kpelle, Vai, Tomas and Mandingo ethnic groups, while the large majority of the Sierra Leonean refugees are from the Vou and Mende ethnic groups. Both the Liberians and the Sierra Leoneans are from rural areas along the borders. Nearly two thirds of the refugees are estimated to be female.

2. Almost all the Sierra Leonean and Liberian refugees have settled in the Forest Region of Guinea, in the prefectures of Nzerekore and Gueckedou. The Liberian refugees have settled more specially in Lola, Yomou, Beyla and Nzerekore, in the west. The Sierra Leonean refugees, on the other hand, are in the area consisting of the prefectures of Macenta, Gueckedou and Kissidougou.

3. Since the early part of 1994, the 80,000 displaced Guineans are no longer included in the refugee caseload or assisted as was the case in 1993.

4. Apart from the 576,482 refugees in rural areas, Guinea also hosts 675 urban refugees, consisting of 671 Liberians, 3 Sierra Leoneans and 1 person from Niger, all in Conakry and all assisted by UNHCR under the care and maintenance project.

PREFECTURE	LIBERIANS	SIERRA LEONEANS	TOTAL
Beyla	26 725	741	27 466
Nzerekore	102 177	574	102 751
Lola	39 923	195	40 118
Youmou	62 949	80	63 029
TOTAL EAST	231 774	1 590	233 364
Gueckedou	58 006	157 600	215 606
Macenta	122 819	770	123 596
Kissidougou	2 794	1 122	3 916
TOTAL WEST	183 619	159 499	343 118
Conakry	671	3+1*	675
*Niger			
OVERALL TOTAL	416 064	161 092+1*	577 157

Major developments (1993 and first quarter 1994)

5. The refugee population in Guinea has steadily increased in the period under review. The largest inflows were towards the end of 1992 and in the first half of 1993. They have been brought about by the situation in the two countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone).

6. Emergency relief assistance was provided for new arrivals along with the implementation of the existing project.

7. In 1993, a mission from the UNHCR Technical Section (PTSS) carried out an assessment of UNHCR activities in Guinea in the crop production and income-generation sectors. The mission recommended that crop production activities should be strengthened by emphasizing micro-projects. It noted that significant and encouraging results in rice growing had been achieved by some refugees, whose average yield per hectare under cultivation may vary between 785 kg and 1,538 kg. The mission estimated that these refugees, who consist of 20,000 families, might become self-sufficient by 1995.

8. A survey to monitor the nutritional status of refugees was conducted in 1993. It shows that, despite the reduced food ration, the nutritional status of settled refugees has remained fairly satisfactory. However, the status of vulnerable groups and new arrivals requires constant attention.

9. A joint mission by the World Food Programme (WFP)/UNHCR, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies carried out an assessment of the refugees' food needs and of the implementation of the recommendations of the 1992 mission.

10. The mission not only recommended that food assistance for the refugees should be maintained until the end of 1994, but also that the food basket should be expanded to include pulses for new arrivals and that a household budget and consumption survey should be organized. The mission was also of the opinion that, in view of the encouraging results achieved in food crop production by nearly 20,000 families, food aid for those families should be terminated in early 1995.

11. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) Commission of Fifteen on Refugees fielded a mission to the refugee reception area in early February 1994. The mission held talks with the authorities in the areas and got an idea of the refugees' conditions of settlement.

12. Despite the peace agreements signed in Cotonou on 25 July 1993, fighting between the various Liberian factions continues in Liberia, thus considerably hampering the organization of voluntary repatriation in 1994.

Programme objectives and priorities

13. In this context, the priority objectives will be to consolidate the results already achieved in the implementation of the multisectoral programme (care and maintenance) and to provide assistance for the refugees and, in particular, for those (new arrivals, vulnerable groups) whose condition still

requires ongoing support. At the same time, the current trend towards the gradual reduction of food assistance should continue to take shape depending on the progress made with regard to food self-sufficiency. The improvement of registration operations will continue in order to obtain statistical data on refugee movements, vulnerable groups, new arrivals and relatively self-sufficient refugees.

14. Efforts to increase swamp land reclamation and develop rice cultivation will be intensified. In this connection, there are plans to provide the necessary inputs (seeds, tools) and technical training for newly arrived refugees who are capable of doing agricultural work.

15. With the assistance of social welfare services, projects will be implemented on behalf of women heads of household and unaccompanied children.

16. There were few opportunities for vocational training under the earlier programmes. Henceforth, efforts will be made to provide vocational training for young people. With the assistance of the German cooperation agency, Bundesministerium für Zusammenarbeit (BMZ), a vocational training programme will be set up during the 1994-1995 academic year. It should provide young people who have completed their secondary studies with the tools enabling them to take part in economic life in Guinea and their country origin (Liberia, Sierra Leone).

17. Seminars to promote refugee law and repatriation will be organized by the UNHCR Branch Office for the local authorities and agencies taking part in the implementation of the project or likely to be involved in repatriation in due course.

18. In 1993, about 114 refugee candidates for family reunion were selected for resettlement in the United States of America. The changes made in the resettlement programme in the United States of America in July 1993 by the competent immigration services slowed down the processing of new requests. The UNHCR Branch Office in Conakry will continue to provide assistance to refugee resettlement candidates meeting UNHCR standards and the requirements of the new procedures established in the United States of America and other potential countries of resettlement.

Arrangements for implementation/related inputs

19. Despite the situation prevailing in Liberia, UNHCR will maintain the plan of action for repatriation in order to update it as rapidly as necessary when the time comes. The implementation of the multisectoral care and maintenance programme is ensured by 20 implementing agencies and Guinean Government departments, in accordance with the subsidiary agreements concluded with UNHCR. These international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) include Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) Belgium and the Mission philafricaine, for the health sector; the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, for logistics and food distribution; the Agence des musulmans d'Afrique et koweïtienne and the International Rescue Committee, for the educational sector; the Organisation Catholique pour la promotion humaine, the Guinean

Red Cross and the Protestant Church, for community services; and the Centre international de développement et de recherches (CIDR) and the Fonds d'appui aux initiatives de base (FAIB), for activities in the income-generation sector. Refugee registration and crop production will be ensured by the Ministry of Planning and the Regional Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, respectively. Water supplies and road maintenance and repairs in the refugee reception area (Nzerekore, Gueckedou) will be implemented by the Société nationale d'approvisionnement d'eau (SNAPE) and the Bureau technique de génie rural (BTGR), respectively.

20. In 1994, WFP is providing 52,403 mt of basic food items (cereals, oils, split peas) and soya-wheat blend (a type of high-protein flour), thus covering the needs of 577,914 refugees.

General Programmes

(a) Variations in planned activities in 1993

Care and maintenance

21. There has been an increase in the food needs covered by WFP, but also in needs in other sectors (transport, domestic items, shelter, water, agriculture) of the care and maintenance project financed by UNHCR. The inflows have led UNHCR to revise the budget for the care and maintenance project upwards from $10,824,600 to $14,077,100, i.e. by $3,252,500 or 30 per cent. Additional needs have thus been covered in key sectors, such as transport, domestic items, shelter, water and micro-projects implemented for 20,000 families.

22. In 1993 and contrary to what had previously been agreed with the November 1992 joint WFP/UNHCR mission, expanded to include donors and UNHCR's operational partners, assistance for 80,000 displaced Guineans was extended for nine months following a request made by the Government of Guinea to UNHCR and WFP headquarters.

Voluntary repatriation

23. The plan of action initially drawn up in 1992 and updated in 1993 with a view to the voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees could not be implemented because hostilities broke out again in Liberia. The UNHCR Branch Office in Conakry nevertheless reports that, in addition to the few cases of spontaneous returnees, whose number is very small, 529 refugees were repatriated under UNHCR auspices during the past year.

24. The repatriation of Sierra Leone refugees was also not organized, partly because fighting in the refugees' area of origin became more intense and partly because Guinea's land borders were closed during the election campaign in the country. However, some cases of individual repatriation for a total of 1,047 Sierra Leonean refugees were registered and assisted by the UNHCR Branch Office in Conakry.

(b) 1994 planned implementation

Care and maintenance

25. In 1994, WFP will continue to provide food assistance to all the refugees in accordance with the recommendations of the joint WFP/UNHCR/donor mission in February-March 1994.

26. In addition to the maintenance of assistance to all refugees until the end of 1994, these recommendations provide, inter alia, for the granting of an additional ration of pulses to new arrivals/vulnerable groups, the organization of two nutritional surveys and a refugee household budget-consumption survey and the improvement of refugee registration procedures (old and new arrivals).

27. The transport and distribution of non-food items will be ensured by the purchase of additional rolling stock/lorries.

28. The multisectoral care and maintenance project will also cover the refugees' new and additional needs and, in particular, those of new arrivals in various areas (blankets, soap, utensils and other basic items).

29. In 1994, health care will be made available to vulnerable groups, new arrivals and, to a lesser extent, the other refugees. However, if conditions so permit, the policy of requiring payment for health care might be tested on a small scale in accordance with the recommendation by the 1992 mission.

30. The social services programme focusing on the training of vulnerable groups, women and children will be strengthened. Training seminars and events for the observance of the International Year of the Family will be organized by the social welfare services in cooperation with the national social affairs departments.

31. In primary education, nearly 1,120 teachers have been recruited to give courses to 55,000 pupils in 169 schools. The initial objectives were to increase the number of primary schools by 20 per cent, as well as the number of pupils by 20 per cent, but these projections turned out to be too high in relation to the budget allocation.

32. The programme provides for the continuation of the policy of promoting food self-sufficiency by increasing the amount of cultivated land, supplying agricultural inputs and reclaiming swamp land for rice cultivation.

33. With regard to refugee protection, the training activities undertaken in preceding years will be continued in 1994.

34. The breakdown by sector of activity of the allocations for 1994 and 1995 is as follows (in US$):

Sectors	Initial allocation 1994	Revised allocation 1994	Initial allocation 1995
Transport	3 044 825	3 044 835	3 200 000
Domestic needs	885 255	510 076	200 000
Water	986 415	871 116	250 000
Sanitation	458 920	450 000	200 000
Health	1 990 855	1 724 345	1 500 000
Shelter	178 635	150 000	350 000
Community services	439 870	115 000	600 000
Education	1 997 660	2 800 000	1 800 000
Agriculture	865 120	765 000	700 000
Forestry	113 890	100 000	200 000
Income generation	258 170	150 000	200 000
Legal assistance	283 415	22 628	280 000
Agency op. support	70 170	60 000	90 000
Project personnel	2 356 700	0	0
Programme delivery costs	0	2 662 800	2 654 000
Total	13 929 900	12 425 800	12 224 000

Voluntary repatriation

35. As a result of the current situation in Liberia and in Sierra Leone, where the hostilities are continuing, only a few requests for voluntary repatriation have been registered by UNHCR. The plan of action drawn up in 1992 and revised in 1993 with a view to the repatriation of Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees might be revised again and updated in 1994 if noticeable positive changes take place in the short term.

36. In the meantime, a project with an allocation of $160,000 for the repatriation of 2,400 refugees has been under way since early 1994.

(c) 1995 programme proposals

Care and maintenance

37. The multisectoral care and maintenance project for Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees will be continued in 1995 in its 1994 form.

However, in view of the considerable progress the refugees have made in crop production, it is estimated that between 120,000 to 170,000 refugees are self-sufficient and might do without food assistance.

38. While giving priority to the promotion of refugee self-sufficiency through the development of agricultural and income-generating activities, the project should gradually show a drop in the volume of assistance and should benefit new arrivals and vulnerable groups.

39. Accordingly, activities in key sectors (transport and distribution of non-food items, health, agriculture, education and vocational training, income-generating activities) should continue to benefit from considerable UNHCR support if no large-scale repatriation takes place in the course of 1995.

40. In the health sector, care will still be available to new arrivals and vulnerable groups. The payment of the costs of health care should begin to be collected from refugees whose level of self-sufficiency is recognized as such.

41. The activities undertaken in preceding years in the primary education field will be continued in 1995 for pupils who have not been repatriated.

42. The International Rescue Committee will consider ways of facilitating the transition to the Guinean system for refugee pupils in the reception area (or integration in primary school curricula).

43. The group of women heads of household and refugee children will continue to benefit from UNHCR's efforts through technical training, which will be provided on the spot by the programme's community social services.

44. Efforts to increase the refugees' food self-sufficiency will continue in 1995 through the supply of agricultural inputs, the expansion of the amount of reclaimed swamp land for rice cultivation and the refocusing of income-generating activities in accordance with the recommendations of the December 1993 mission carried out by the UNHCR Technical Section.

Special programmes

(a) Variations in planned activities in 1993

Education Account

45. In 1993, five refugee students received UNHCR assistance to continue their studies in Conakry. At the beginning of the 1993-1994 academic year, they were transferred either to the United States of America or to other English-speaking countries, where conditions for their studies are better. An application on behalf of 100 candidates for vocational training could not be accepted by headquarters owing to the lack of financial resources.

Trust Funds

German Cooperation Programme (DAFI)

46. During the 1993-1994 academic year, 13 other refugee students receiving assistance from the Albert Einstein German Academic Initiative (DAFI) continued their studies in various countries (Ghana, Sierra Leone).

Agricultural project

47. As part of action to promote self-sufficiency, a programme to reclaim swamp land for rice cultivation began in 1993 with an allocation of $145,000, which was donated by Japanese cooperation and made it possible to provide seeds, tools and technical training for 300 refugee families.

(b) 1994 planned implementation

48. The project to reclaim swamp land for rice cultivation will continue in 1994. Another agricultural project to increase rice production and combat environmental deterioration will be implemented in 1994 with financing from German cooperation (GTZ). Over 212 ha of swamp land, including 55 ha for 1994, will be reclaimed between 1994 and 1997 for rice cultivation. The 1994 project budget is estimated at $57,000 and the total number of beneficiaries by 1997 will be 800 families.

(c) 1995 programme proposals

Education Account

49. UNHCR hopes to continue to assist not only the students who have begun their studies (5 under the Education Account and 13 under the DAFI programme), but also those who show promise of being able to complete higher studies successfully.

Trust Funds

50. As in the previous year, the project to reclaim swamp land for rice cultivation will be implemented with financing from German cooperation (GTZ). The project will provide refugee families with seeds, tools and the necessary technical training.

Programme delivery and administrative support costs

(a) Variations in planned activities in 1993

51. As a result of the continuous inflow of refugees, an administrative restructuring took place in 1993, but many international posts remained vacant in 1993 because of working conditions that are regarded as being difficult and because of remoteness from urban centres.

52. With regard to expenditure by sub-offices, account must be taken of various factors, the main one being the often very difficult situation in the field. Another factor which has had a significant economic and social impact is the devaluation of the CFA franc. Even though Guinea is not a member of the CFA franc group, it is affected by the repercussions of this devaluation. These two factors have had the direct effect of making the operation more expensive in the sub-offices because of the many missions to cover unstaffed posts and the costs of these missions and travel. A third factor is that the common staff costs index adopted for 1993 turned out to be lower than the actual costs recorded during the year. It must be said that this factor is valid for all African countries. The sub-offices started to replace already very used equipment and vehicles damaged during road accidents and this explains the rather high level of expenditure under the heading of non-expendable equipment.

(b) 1994 planned implementation

53. The budget is intended to cover the ordinary operating requirements of the Conakry, Nzerekore and Gueckedou offices. The establishment of two international posts as of 1 July 1994 and five local staff posts as of 1 June 1994 for all of the offices should better ensure programme supervision. It is to be hoped that these posts can be staffed. In addition to staff costs, the budget covers the transport costs of mission staff, the replacement of vehicles and communications costs (radio, telephone). It should also be noted that, as a result of the readjustment of the commor staff costs index, administrative costs will be higher. The Nzerekore and Gueckedou sub-offices have experienced large-scale inflows and many security problems. This will require the purchase of radio equipment and walkie-talkies to enable the staff to work undisturbed. Emphasis will be placed on field monitoring in 1994 to facilitate the establishment of appropriate conditions for repatriation and this is why posts and operational expenditure in the field are being stressed.

(c) 1995 programme proposals

54. The 1995 proposal is more or less unchanged in relation to the 1994 revised budget and will cover, inter alia, the salaries of 48 local and 19 international officials, the ordinary operating expenses of the 3 offices, allocations for monitoring missions and vehicle replacement costs.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN GUINEA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1993	1994		1995	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1993 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
		GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)		
16 226.3	13 929.9	9 763.0	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	9 570.0
30.5 a/	-	160.0 b/	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	-
2.9 a/	-	-	RESETTLEMENT	-
-	-	2 662.8	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See annexes I a and II a	2 654.0
16 259.7	13 929.9	12 585.8	SUBTOTAL OPERATIONS	12 224.0
-	-	275.2	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See annexes I b and II b	288.8
16 259.7	13 929.9	12 861.0	TOTAL (1)	12 512.8
		SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)		
2.7	3.4	3.4	EDUCATION ACCOUNT 5 university scholarships	3.4
147.3	-	57.0	OTHER TRUST FUNDS Various assistance	-
73.4	23.8	67.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer	67.0
223.4	27.2	127.4	TOTAL (2)	70.4
16 483.1	13 957.1	12 988.4	GRAND TOTAL (1 + 2)	12 583.2

a/ Obligation incurred against Overall Allocation.

b/ Allocated from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation.